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FIELD WORKER Jimmie Birdwell
Indian-Pioneer History Project S-149
May 11, 1937

INTERVIEW WITH William, Graham
912 S.W. 53, Oklahoma City, Okla.
Born February 18, 1860
Whitesboro, Texas

Father's name Will Graham
Born 1823, Tenn.
Mother's name Jencie Jones
Born 1817, Tenn.

Mr. Graham went to work for his brother at what is now the town of Ryan in 1881. At that time in driving up the Chisholm trail to Caldwell, Kansas, one only passed four houses between Red River and the Kansas line. There was one house at the present town of Marlow, one shack on the Washita, one on the south Canadian where the trail crossed the river, and one shack at Kingfisher.

Mr. Graham worked for his brother two years, he worked from Ryan east to Gainsville, Texas, and west to the mouth of the Pease River. Mr. Graham worked out of a Line Camp, and the grass was up to a horse's belly.

Mr. Graham said there were no bridges on the streams, and cattle would swim the creeks. Some times he would wear the same shirt and pants for six months, before he could get in to some store to buy more.

In 1883 Mr. Graham married Lavila Thompson, daughter of a neighbor rancher, and they moved about 8 miles east of what is now the town of Marlow. There was no lumber closer than Bowie, Texas, and he hauled the lumber from there to build his house. Bowie, Texas, was also his trading point. Mr. Graham hauled all of his produce there.

In 1886 the ranchers and farmers brought a Mr. Fullingim, a Methodist preacher, into the community and built a log church and school house. This man served in the log house for ten years until he died.

Mr. Graham farmed and raised hogs and cattle.

Mr. Graham said that when he helped to drive a bunch of cattle to Caldwell, Kansas, in 1881, they were eating dinner one day when a band of Indians rode up on their ponies and asked for something to eat, and they gave the Indians dinner. He did not know what tribe the Indians belonged to. Indians would sometimes come to the camp and ask for a fat beef and if they did not get it, they would slip back at night and try to scatter the herd.

He moved to Oklahoma City in 1927.